

Newport Forest

Wednesday August 3 2005

1:55 - 7:15 pm

Weather: prec. 0 mm; RH 45 %; SW \leq 20 kmh; LM 35 C; FCF 32 C

Purpose: watering and trails

Participants: Kee, Brian Cornish

The annual tour for the board of Thames Talbot Land Trust is scheduled for this Sunday and the trails must be made respectable. As well, the trees must be watered very well after a week of abstinence.

Watering Pat's gourds, I noticed that the mound ants have decided to start a new colony under her gourd bucket at the edge of the meadow. They have already excavated enough soil under the bucket to make a ring or talus of soil/sand around the base about 3-4" wide and nearly as high. Will the bucket rise, in time?

Brian and I succeeded in something like 99% coverage with just two loads of water. We then walked the two-bridge trail, clearing away fallen branches and hooking brush as we went. At the pipe bridge we secured the far ramp on two 2x4s attached to the trestle.

After a drink break, we walked the TRT, grooming the sides and base, clearing branches, as before. This took an hour and a half and we returned to the trailer with an incredible thirst.